

The Southeast News

VOLUME X, NUMBER 7

MAY 1962

PF-YF Conference At East Tallassee

The Annual Pilgrim Fellowship-Youth Fellowship Conference was held on April 7 and 8 at the Congregational Christian Church, East Tallassee, Alabama.

The timely theme for the conference, "God, the Universe, and You", was introduced by the keynote speaker, Mr. W. F. Green, of the United States Army Ordnance Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama.

Boyd W. James, Axon, Georgia, president of the group, presided over the sessions which saw over 200 delegates, adult advisers, guests and visitors present.

Wray Allen, of the Huguley Church, Lanett, was elected president for the new year. Other officers and chairmen include David Snively, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., vice-president; Miss Beth Burnham, LaGrange, Ga., corresponding secretary; Miss Tommie Gail Moore, Shawmut, Alabama, recording secretary; Bryant Stokes, Phenix City, Alabama, treasurer.

Miss Pat Brackin, Headland, Ala., is the new Faith chairman. The Fellowship chairman will be Martin Brown, of Atlanta. Dennis Adkins, Deer Lodge, Tenn., will serve as Action chairman.

The All-Conference Banquet was held Saturday night at the high school. The room was strikingly decorated in the mission theme and with publicity about summer conferences. Mr. Marrell Rhodes, who presided, kept the audience highly amused with his stories, remarks and introductions.

During the Saturday afternoon sessions workshops on various themes were held.

The host minister, Rev. Harold C. Henderson, conducted the communion service on Sunday morning. Superintendent James H. Lightbourne Jr. delivered the Conference Sermon in the absence of Rev. Annie R. Campbell.

Tenth Annual Southeast Convention Sessions Held On April 28-29 At Birmingham, Alabama

History was made during the Tenth Annual Sessions of the Southeast Convention held April 28-29 at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

The approximately 200 delegates and visitors in attendance at the two-day sessions held in the striking contemporary church structure of the host church, heard reports which indicated the convention is maintaining its Program of Progress toward complete self-support.

During 1961 the churches contributed \$33,090 to the regular Our Christian World Mission program and \$5,398 to the Christian Higher Education Fund—a grand total of \$38,488 and the highest in the convention's history.

For the first time in the history of the convention Fraternal Delegates from the Convention of the South, the organization of Negro Congregational Christian Churches, were in attendance. Fraternal Delegates also were present from the Evangelical and Reformed Churches of the area.

The keynote address, which concerned the work and program of the United Church, was given on Saturday morning by Judge Donald W. Webber of Auburn, Maine. Judge Webber, a member of the Supreme Court of the State of Maine, is the first moderator of the United Church.

Also present for the sessions and the speaker for the Sunday morning service was Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, who is the moderator of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches as well as a member of the Council of Lay Life of the United Church.

On Saturday night banquets were held at the church for both the Women's Fellowship and the Churchmen's Fellowship of the convention. During these sessions Miss Dora C. Brackin, Headland, Alabama, was elected pres-

ident of the Women's Fellowship and Rufus G. Obrecht, Chattanooga, Tenn., of the Churchmen's Fellowship.

Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, minister of the Evarts, Kentucky, Congregational Christian Church, was the moderator for the 1962 sessions.

During the sessions held on Saturday afternoon those in attendance participated in Workshops. This was a new feature of the program.

Workshops were held in Christian Education, Mrs. W. Raymond Berry, leader; Christian Social Action, Rev. Clyde C. Flannery; Evangelism, Rev. J. Kermit Harris; and Stewardship and Missionary Education, Rev. A. Ray Mearse.

The Rev. W. Raymond Berry reported for the Committee on Reorganization and Realignment, looking to the formation of a United Church Conference in this geographical area.

According to Mr. Berry representatives of the South Indiana Synod (Evangelical and Reformed) and the Southeast Convention and the Convention of the South have held several meetings to discuss the formation of the United Church Conference. The plans formulated by the committee will be presented to each of the parent bodies for action. The full report of the committee is carried in this issue of The Southeast News on the back page.

The Church Builder's Club held its annual sessions on Sunday morning. Mr. Fred D. Powell, Tallassee, Ala., was elected new president.

The Southeast Convention elected the Rev. J. Kermit Harris, minister of Fredonia Church, its new moderator. To the office of moderator-elect the delegates voted W. Pressley Ingram of Birmingham. Mrs. A. D. Harry, Lanett, recording secretary, and W. J. Strickland, Atlanta, treasurer, were continued in office. The convention will meet on April 27-28 in 1963.

United Church, LaGrange Reports Many Activities

The United Congregational Christian Church of LaGrange, Georgia, has made some progress in the total program of the church in the past few months. Our church and Sunday School attendance has increased. Within the past few months we had a contest in our Sunday School. We had two sides comprised of the "Blues", led by Mr. John Banks, and the "Reds", led by our pastor, Rev. Carmack. Much fun was had by all who helped in the contest. The "Reds" were the victors and the "Blues" had to give them a supper. We had Dean A. R. Van Cleave of Southern Union College to speak to us at our dinner.

The church purchased 125 new hymnals. We also purchased 100 folding chairs and painted the basement of the church. We now have our general assembly in the basement of the church.

We are planning our revival for July 29-August 3, 1962, with Rev. Charles W. Bell of Altamahaw, N. C., doing the preaching.

We have also reorganized our Pilgrim Fellowship. Mrs. Doris Thornberry is the new advisor of the P. F. The Pilgrim Fellowship has several projects in which they are trying to raise money for the purpose of sending PF'ers to Summer Camp. Recently, the PF purchased a ping pong set, badminton set, volley ball, and a shuffle board set. They now have two socials a month.

The ladies of the church are very active in different projects of the church. One of these is trying to raise money to install stained-glass windows in the church. Circle 2 has organized a 60-Plus Club which is comprised of people sixty years of age or older. This is for anyone and not just for members of our church. The club started with about seven members and has grown to some thirty or more members. The club is planning a sale of some of the things that they have made to earn money to make several trips this summer. At our last meeting of the club we found that most of the members were still young at heart — they were doing the "twist".

We have also reorganized our Youth Choir and it is under the direction of Hulon Alsobrooks and Miss Sandra Wright, both of whom are students at LaGrange College. At our first meeting we had twelve present and we hope that this will grow into something great for these young people. We are plan-

Progress Noted At Todd Church

Todd Church is still making progress. The attendance at Sunday School and church services continues to increase and there are several prospective members. We have a building repair program under way. After taking subscriptions for the building program, the Women's Fellowship and the Churchmen's Fellowship joined forces to sponsor a chicken plate sale, proceeds to go for the building fund. The Churchmen's Fellowship also plans to build a baptismal pool for the church.

The Women's Fellowship purchased a new gas water heater for the church kitchen and have put new curtains in the parsonage. They have as their next project the purchase of a hospital bed so when there is sickness in the church families and a hospital bed is needed, the church family may have the use of it.

Eight of our young people and the sponsor attended the SEC/PF Conference at East Tallassee, Alabama, and one of our group was elected corresponding secretary of the SEC/PF. They all reported a good conference and a nice time. Our young people are very loyal to the church.

The Disciple Christian Church is joining with our church in a Union Easter Sunrise Service. The service will be at Todd Congregational Christian Church. The pastor of Todd Church, the Rev. A. C. Nelson, will read the Scripture and the pastor of the Disciple Church will give the message. The music will be furnished by the combined choirs of the two churches. There will be a special Easter program at the 11:00 o'clock service on Easter Sunday at Todd Church, with the pastor preaching an Easter sermon.

ning a special by them every Sunday night.

Our young married couple's class has been bowling, along with others in the church, within the last few months. We have enjoyed the fellowship together. The only difficulty we have had in this is when the preacher keeps the score. When he does, he never loses. This class is planning a series of study on communism.

We are proud of our church and its people and we hope that we can continue to grow in favor with God and man.

Mrs. Earnest Lipham
Church Reporter

Demorest Church Dedicates Cross

On Easter Sunday 1962 the Demorest Federated Church dedicated a beautiful new brass cross in memory of one of its prominent members, Miss Alice Leech. She died here on October 5, 1961, having lived the last thirteen years of her life here at Demorest. She worked as a nurse in Piedmont College for a time, and then as a teacher at Sautee. She was a leader in church affairs, and a member of the Joint Committee of the Federated Church.

Born near Chamberlain, South Dakota, Alice Leech was trained as a teacher at the State Teachers' College, Cedar Falls, Iowa. After some teaching, she went to the University of Minnesota, where she graduated as a trained nurse. Her longest service was as college nurse and dean of women at Southern State Teachers' College, Springfield, South Dakota.

The new memorial cross hangs in front of a new dark red curtain at the back of the platform, where it attracts the attention of all who come to worship. On the cross are the Greek letters which suggest the name of Jesus. A pair of brass candlesticks, to match the cross, has been ordered as part of the memorial, which was bought with money sent by many of Miss Alice Leech's friends as a spontaneous tribute of their love and respect.

HERE AND THERE

Ecumenical Institute

The Seventh Annual Ecumenical Institute for Christian Leaders, sponsored by the Southern Office of the National Council of Churches, will be held at the Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, N. C., July 22-27.

The theme is "The Word of Life in Living Language." Information and Registration Blanks can be secured through Rev. J. Edward Lantz, 63 Auburn Ave., N. E., Atlanta 3, Georgia.

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Members of the Lanett Church honored Rev. and Mrs. John D. Schofield on their 30th wedding anniversary May 7th. Mr. and Mrs. Schofield held "Open House" on Sunday afternoon, May 6th.

* * * *

The Lanett Churches will have a parade on Saturday morning, June 2, led by a fire truck, to call attention to the holding of Daily Vacation Bible Schools.

Missions On Renewal Planned Town And Country Department

Missions on Renewal for the local church in town and country under guidance of trained and qualified missionaries will be made available through the National Department of the Church in Town and Country beginning Sept. 1, 1962, according to an announcement released by the St. Louis office on March 1.

These Missions, designed to implement at the local congregational level the department's four-year emphasis on The Renewal of the Church in Town and Country, have been in the planning stage since 1960. Following careful preparatory studies in cooperation with the Office of Evangelism and field-testing in relation to the Renewal Project at Meron Institute, the first Training Laboratory for Renewal Missioners is being held July 9-13 at Meron Institute, Meron, Indiana. Twenty-five outstanding town and country pastors will participate in the Training Laboratory and thereafter be available as Missioners on Renewal for at least a three-year period.

Although no Mission dates are to be scheduled prior to September 1, public announcement of the program was made on March 1 because of the importance of the six-month preparatory period which is to precede each local mission. The actual Mission on Renewal will be one week in length (Sunday through Friday), but as the official announcement stresses:

"The Mission week completes a preparatory process and launches a continuing experience . . . The preparatory period will include, (a) congregational and community self-study and personal self-analysis to cultivate the attitude of dynamic, expectant waiting on the Lord!"

The Mission week will include public services of worship and preaching on renewal, small group Bible study and prayer, and interpretation of community study findings.

The "continuing experience" is not, of course, within the power of any human agency to determine or predict. It is the faith of the department that the promises of God and the power of the Holy Spirit are as available to our churches today as they were to Isaiah in the Temple, or to the waiting disciples at Pentecost. We believe that a local congregation entering sincerely and expectantly into such a Mission may

anticipate with confidence:

A renewed and renewing church;
A "people of God" worshipping with new joy; witnessing with new radiance; serving with new power.

A substantial increase in institutional effectiveness in all the ministries of the local church: devotion, evangelism, education, social action, stewardship and benevolence, lay ministries, and all others.

This program is supplemental to and cooperative with the M O R E (Missions on Renewal and Evangelism) program of the United Church Office of Evangelism. Although somewhat different in methodology and more specifically tailored to the needs of the individual church in town and country, the Mission on Renewal shares the essential concerns, principles and objectives of M O R E. Every town and country church is urged to participate in M O R E when it becomes available.

Missions on Renewal is not conceived as a massive campaign. In the first year only twenty-five missionaries will be available, which means that no more than a maximum of fifty local missions could possibly be scheduled across the entire United Church. If you want to be among the first fifty, you should apply early. If the program is well received, more Missioners will be trained and the tempo stepped up in succeeding years.

HERE AND THERE

Rev. and Mrs. James W. Walters, Antioch Church, Andalusia, Alabama, announce the arrival of Ruth Constance Walters on March 28. Mother and daughter are doing just fine.

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The United Church of Mission Village, San Diego, California, Rev. Melvin Dollar, minister, now reports a membership of 503 and an average of 404.

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Dr. J. Edmund Lippy, Eastern Field Secretary for the Board for Homeland Ministries, recently visited both the Huntsville and the Montgomery United Church Projects.

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The Lanett and Langdale choirs combined to present an Easter Cantata. Performances were given in each church.

Montgomery Entertains Central Alabama Rally

The Central Alabama Women's Fellowship held its Spring Rally in Montgomery on Tuesday evening, March 20, at the Social Room of Barber's Milk Company on Fairview Avenue. The Women's Fellowship of the Montgomery United Church served as hostesses.

Following a welcome address by Mrs. J. H. Arthur, president of the local group, Mrs. Millard Fuller led a worship program with all present participating.

The speakers for the evening included the Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock, Minister of Christian Education of the Southeast Convention, Atlanta; Mrs. Harvetta Barr, president, Alabama Women's Fellowship, Phenix City; Miss Dora C. Brackin, president, Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship, Headland, Ala.; and Miss Naomi Blalock, missionary from India, formerly of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Miss Blalock gave an illustrated talk, using color slides, about the work she is doing in India as a missionary. She works especially with the young girls, teaching them to read and write, how to prepare and preserve foods, and to be Christians. Ages of most of the girls that attend the school are between 13 and 16. Miss Blalock pointed out that in India the wife is considered "boss" inside the home and if she is taught to be a Christian wife and mother, then the home will more than likely be a Christian one.

A Woman's Gift Presentation was led by Mrs. Marrell Rhodes of East Tallassee. The Woman's Gift is used to support mission work at home and abroad.

Mrs. Floyd Ballard, Central District president, presided during the business session when the following officers were elected to fill existing vacancies: Mrs. Millard Fuller, Montgomery, vice-president, and Mrs. Roy Culpepper, Mt. Olive, secretary-treasurer. Committee chairmen are: Evangelism and Spiritual Life, Mrs. Henry Rhodes, Mt. Olive; Stewardship and Woman's Gift, Mrs. Millard Fuller, Montgomery; Christian Education, Mrs. J. C. Coleman, Tallassee; Christian Social Action, Mrs. Marrell Rhodes, Tallassee; Missionary Education, Willa Durden, Tallassee; Friendly Service, Mrs. Douglas Cole, Montgomery.

Approximately 30 persons from the area attended. The Montgomery Church is the youngest in the Southeast Convention.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Superintendent's Corner

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention is now history. If the comments at the meeting and the letters received since are any indication, it was a good meeting.

The attendance was good. Pilgrim Church played host to the convention graciously and efficiently. Participation in the program, particularly the workshops, was excellent.

Perhaps it is fitting that on the occasion of its tenth annual sessions the convention for the first time in its history should welcome fraternal delegates from the Convention of the South, which is composed of the Negro Congregational Christian Churches in the South.

The practice of having fraternal delegates from the Convention of the South and from the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in the area will continue until the formation of a United Church Conference in this region.

Judge Donald Webber long will be remembered, both for his informative and challenging address on the United Church and its mission, and for his humorous tales.

Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg may discover she made almost as much of an impression with her dramatic and comic commercial for the United Church Herald as with her meaningful sermon.

How fortunate we were to have two such fine lay people of the United Church with us for our annual meeting.

The program went smoothly, both because of careful planning and because of the guiding hand of our efficient and attractive moderator, Rev. Carolyn Welch. Yes, it was a good meeting. Now on to this year and its work!

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION BUDGET FOR 1962

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

Salaries, Annuities, Rental Allowance	\$17,189.00	\$17,189.00
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OFFICE

Rent	\$ 500.00	
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Telephone & Telegraph	480.00	
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Furniture and Equipment	150.00	
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Miscellaneous	215.00	
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\$ 1,340.00

PROMOTION

Supplies and Materials	\$ 1,600.00	
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The Southeast News	1,400.00	
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\$ 3,000.00

ORGANIZATION

Board of Directors, Committees	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
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TRAVEL

Superintendent (Includes Auto Payments)	\$ 2,900.00	
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Min. Chr. Ed. (Includes Auto Payments)	2,000.00	
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Special Travel Fund	750.00	
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\$ 5,650.00

PARSONAGE

Principal on Note	\$ 1,000.00	
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Interest on Note	250.00	
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Maintenance	400.00	
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\$ 1,650.00

MISCELLANEOUS

\$ 875.00	\$ 875.00
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CHURCH AID AND MISSION WORK

\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
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NATIONAL BOARDS AND AGENCIES

\$10,553.00	\$10,553.00
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TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$48,957.00

RECEIPTS

Board of Home Missions Regular Subsidy	\$ 8,833.00
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Our Christian World Mission from Churches	\$38,812.00
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Southeast News Subscriptions	400.00
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Miscellaneous	912.00
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TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$48,957.00

Christian Education Associates Workshop

Mrs. George W. Stowe Jr., of Langdale, Alabama, was asked to write for *The Southeast News* her impressions of the Christian Education Associates' Workshop, held at Avon Park, Florida, January 7-12. Although several months time has elapsed since the Workshop, the CEA's of the Southeast Convention continue to meet and study, preparing themselves for even more effective leadership education in our churches. Thus Mrs. Stowe's article continues to be timely:

Impressions Of A CEA Workshop

Early in January, a five-day leadership development workshop in Christian Education was held at the Congregational Conference Center at Avon Park, Florida. Some fifty-one persons from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Florida, with two visitors from Illinois representing churches of the recently merged United Church of Christ, met for the purpose of preparing themselves for more effective guidance in the educational work of the church.

There is an old saying that first impressions are important. This was, of course, very true from the time we received the information about the workshop. The very fact there was to be this opportunity for a leadership development program, with a capable and genuinely interested staff, was especially gratifying to me.

My handy dictionary says "impress" means the "effect of a force". I am sure all who had the privilege of being in the CEA Workshop will go along with me that the effects of the force, which were at first staggering, have now mellowed to a point where they have been re-evaluated in the light of a new learning experience. This learning experience involved participation in experiences of: getting to know ourselves, our attitudes and feelings; listening to new knowledge and information about the new United Church curriculum; studying, searching, and discussing materials provided for our study; sharing in an ongoing CEA group fellowship beyond the workshop to meet periodically for study and discussion on needs of our church and how we can serve them.

The effects of such a force are bound to be felt long after the major impact has diminished. Needless to say, I was impressed and still am aware of the

'What Young People Expect Of The Church'

By Miss Linda Williams

(Miss Linda Williams of Columbus, Georgia, former recording secretary of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship, was asked to deliver the sermon for Sunday Morning Worship of the Central Georgia Rally, meeting recently at Fredonia Church, Barnesville. From a choice of several topics, Linda chose to develop the topic, "What Young People Expect of the Church." We print excerpts from her sermon as a challenge to all of us).

Whether we are young or old we expect the people of our church to be good Christians. The cross of Christ divides us into two great classes, the saved and the lost, the same as it did the two men on either side of the cross at Calvary.

Someone has compared Christians to a great cedar tree, or the swaying palm. The righteous person grows higher and nearer to heaven, just as the tree does. It is said that the palm tree can stand hurricanes and storms better than other trees, not because of its great resistance, but because it bends and yields and bows to the wind and storm. So must a Christian learn lessons of submission.

We have heard many times that the future of our world is in the hands of our young people. Perhaps many have been inclined to think young people are not qualified for grave responsibility. But our country believes in them, and that faith is not misplaced. It is said that the average soldier of the Civil War was 17; in World War I, 22; and in World War II, 21. The results of these wars show what young people can do. Young people have always responded to the call of duty. In the words of Emerson:

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When duty whispers low "Thou must"
The youth replies, "I can."

As Sir Winston Churchill would say, "The younger generation has always been vitally important. When a new venture is to be undertaken, train the youth!"

Thus the young people challenge the learning experience which helped me to discover who I am. By this knowledge I hope to become a more effective servant of Christ in the educational mission of the church.

Alice Stowe

churches:

First, "Don't sell us short!" Don't underestimate your young people. Where the church is concerned, they want primarily a solid spiritual program. Some churches pitch their programs on the basis of competition with the world. We expect the church to provide good spiritual programs. Of course, it is also the responsibility of our churches to provide for the social life. A prominent Christian leader once said, "I am providing for the social needs of our young people because they are ours. It is somewhat like a parent who would provide for his children every possible advantage, not to win their affection, but because he loves them." If you love the young people of your church you will want to provide for them, too.

Second, "Provide opportunities for us to express ourselves in terms of our interests, abilities and needs." Young people are different from adults. Many churches fail to provide for the needs of the young people because their leaders do not realize this. In most cases, young people are difficult only because few leaders take time to understand them. But how richly they repay efforts of understanding, constructive leaders!

Third, "Give your young people a chance to take part." You may be surprised at the good results they will produce. And, young people, when you are given opportunities, don't turn them down. Put all you have into the work of the church. This may help you to do something really worthwhile later in life.

"Together" is the word for young people's work. It is a challenge to work together in a great Christian Crusade. A recent magazine article presented an imaginary picture of the tools in the Carpenter of Nazareth's shop discussing their relative importance. At the end of the day, they discovered that the Master Workman had employed all of them in his work, whereupon Brother Saw said, "Brethren, I perceive that all of us are laborers together with God."

How often we fuss at others because they don't do things just the way we think they should, when we should be careful to guard against finding fault with any of God's tools.

Annual Convention Votes Resolutions

Whereas the delegates to the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches have been so graciously entertained by the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Birmingham, Alabama,

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank most heartily the pastor, the Reverend Clarence W. Baldwin, and all members and friends of this church for the hospitality shown and for the many services given to make this meeting a success. Furthermore, we commend the host church for its gracious invitation to the fraternal delegates.

Whereas we continue our work in the Southeast Convention,

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our appreciation:

First, to our superintendent, Dr. James H. Lightbourne Jr., for his inspiring leadership.

Second, to our Minister of Christian Education, Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock, for her enthusiastic leadership and hard work in her first year with us.

Third, to our office secretary, Mrs. Wilmer L. McCord, for her loyal service and work over and above the call of duty.

Fourth, to our able moderator, the Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, our recording secretary, Mrs. A. D. Harry, our treasurer, Mr. W. J. Strickland, all of our committee chairmen, and all others who have helped in any way and for their faithful sacrifice and leadership during the past year.

Fifth, to Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg for her contribution to this convention in her original and characteristically congenial manner.

Whereas Honorable Donald W. Weber, our keynote speaker, has given us an awareness of the uniqueness and opportunities of the United Church, we express to him our deep appreciation, and in light of his address, we recommend that our convention become a more faithful witness as a part of the United Church.

Whereas there remains a difference of opinion relative to the United Church, we recommend that each individual and each church continue their friend-

Report Of The Committee On Re-Alignment And Re-Organization To The Convention

The Committee on Re-Alignment and Re-Organization in the Southeast Area of the United Church of Christ is composed of representatives duly appointed from the South Indiana Synod, the Convention of the South and the Southeast Convention.

It is primarily a Study and Advisory Committee whose task is to explore the problem of realigning and reorganizing our Synod and conventions in this area into conferences of the United Church of Christ in accordance with the constitution. The committee will report to its parent bodies the results of its work and study as these results warrant consideration and action.

There are certain underlying principles which serve to guide the committee in its work, such as:

1. The original initiation for realignment and reorganization must come from the synods, conventions, and associations rather than from the General Synod of the United Church.

2. Conferences of the United Church should be sufficiently large to support a strong and adequate conference staff.

3. Conferences should be organized on a geographical basis to include all of the churches within the area, regardless of racial, language or cultural differences.

4. Realignment should take place so far as possible with a minimum of discontinuity to existing structures, programs, and services.

The committee has had two meetings since the last annual meeting of the Southeast Convention, one in December, 1961, and another in March, 1962.

ly attitude towards the non-voting and those voting "no", with the hope of continued fellowship.

Whereas the convention for the first time has received fraternal delegates from the Convention of the South and from the Evangelical and Reformed churches in the area, we recommend the continued invitation of the delegates until such time as the realignment becomes a reality.

The December meeting was almost wholly devoted to the open discussion of two topics: (1) The cultural and organizational problems affecting our realignment in the Southeast area and (2), the possible geographical boundaries of a United Church Conference in the Southeast. Maps of the geographical area and church membership data which had been compiled were used to help us in our discussion, especially as these related to principles No. 2 and 3 above. It was the consensus of the committee that we should in our future meetings seek to formulate plans for a United Church Conference which would include the general geographical area now included in the Southeast Convention.

In March 1962, the committee met and was divided into sub-committees for the purpose of studying more thoroughly such areas of particular concern as these:

1. Name, boundaries, membership, relationship to the General Synod and Associations, and legal concerns.

2. The standing of ministers and churches.

3. Program interests, relationship to lay fellowships, relationship to educational and benevolent institutions.

4. Conference office, location, operation and staff.

Most of the time in the March meeting was given to the work of these newly established sub-committees.

The work of the Committee on Re-alignment and Reorganization is, by the very nature of the task to be done, slow and tedious. All of the members of the committee are keenly aware of this. Much study, discussion, and formulation must yet take place in the committee before it is ready to report to the parent bodies recommendations for realignment. I hope I can convey to you, for the committee, the importance of patience and perseverance in our common objective to be organized in this geographical area into a conference of the United Church of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. W. Raymond Berry,
Chairman